

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A data medium comprising a printed image produced by the intaglio printing process, said image comprising at least one first ink area with a first ink layer thickness and at least one second ink area with a second ink thickness adjacent to the first ink area, wherein the ink layer thicknesses are different, the first and second ink areas are directly adjacent to each other and are separated from each other by an acute and discrete border line not visible to the naked eye, and that the ink layer thickness of both ink areas passes through a minimum in the region of the border line such that said first and second ink areas do not intermingle with one another.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The data medium according to claim 1, wherein the minimum is an ink layer thickness of almost zero.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The data medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first ink area and/or the second ink area represent a pattern, graphical symbol or text symbol.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) A printing plate for the printing of adjacent ink areas, comprising a printing plate surface and engraved in the printing plate surface, at least one first engraving area with a first engraving depth and at least one second engraving area with a second engraving depth adjacent to the first engraving area, such that the engraving, depths are different, and wherein,

between the first and the second engraved areas, is arranged a separating edge the upper edge of which extends towards a point at the level of the printing plate surface.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 4, wherein

the separating edge has flank angles in the region between 15° and 60°, preferably between 30° and 50°, relative to the perpendicular to the printing plate surface.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first and second engraving depths lie in the region between 5 and 250 μm .

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 6, wherein the first and second engraving depths lie in the region between 5 and 150 μm .

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first engraved area and/or the second engraved area are forms selected from the group consisting of a pattern, a graphical symbol and a text symbol.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the first and/or the second engraved area have a floor area having a floor roughness pattern.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) An intaglio printing process for the printing of adjacent ink areas with different ink layer thicknesses, using a printing plate according to claim 4 or 5 is used.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A process for the manufacture of a printing plate for the printing of adjacent ink areas with different ink layer thicknesses, comprising the following steps:

providing a printing plate with a printing plate surface and

engraving a first engraving area with a first engraving depth and a second engraving area with a second engraving depth in the printing plate surface, such that between the first engraving area and the second engraving area, a separating edge remains, said separating edge having an upper edge which extends towards a point at the height of the printing plate surface.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11, wherein the separating edges are formed with flank angles in the region of 15° to 60°, preferably 30° to 50° relative to the perpendicular to the printing plate surface.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein an engraving tool with a suitable flank angle is used for engraving.

Claim 14. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein a rotating graver coming to a point is used for engraving.

Claim 15. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the engraving depths are created in the region from 5 μ m to 250 μ m.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein the engraving depths lie in the region from 5 μ m to 150 μ m.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein in the first engraving area and/or in the second engraving area, a floor area with a floor roughness pattern is created.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein several adjacent first engraving areas and one or more adjacent second engraving areas are engraved in the printing plate surface.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the first or the several first engraving areas and/or the second or the several second engraving areas are arranged in the form of a pattern, graphical symbol or text symbol.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A data carrier according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ink areas are of linear or areal form.

Claim 21. (Withdrawn) The printing plate according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the engraved areas are formed by linear or areal depressions.

Claim 22. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 11, including forming the engraved areas by linear or areal depressions.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The data medium according to claim 1, wherein the first and second ink areas join at the borderline.

Claim 24. (New) A data medium comprising:

a printed image disposed on a first side of the data medium, and produced by the intaglio printing process, said image comprising at least one first ink area with a first ink layer thickness and at least one second ink area with a second ink thickness adjacent to the first ink area;

a plurality of depressions defined on a second side of the data medium, each depression generally corresponding to one of the first and second ink areas;

wherein the ink layer thicknesses are different, the first and second ink areas are directly adjacent to each other and are separated from each other by an acute and discrete border line not visible to the naked eye, and that the ink layer thickness of both ink areas passes through a minimum in the region of the border line such that said first and second ink areas do not intermingle with one another.

Claim 25. (New) The data medium according to claim 24, wherein the depth of the depressions corresponds to the thickness of the first and second ink layer thicknesses.

Claim 26. (New) The data medium according to claim 24, further comprising a peak defined on the second side of the data medium and generally corresponding to the border line located between the first and second ink areas.

Claim 27. (New) The data medium according to claim 26, wherein the pitch of the peak is dependent upon the sharpness of flank angles of the first and second ink areas.